

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
2nd Session

Vote No. 206

July 19, 1996, 9:52 am
Page S-8331 Temp. Record

WELFARE REFORM RECONCILIATION/Supervision of Teen Mothers

SUBJECT: Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 . . . S. 1956. Faircloth amendment No. 4911.

ACTION: AMENDMENT REJECTED, 21-77

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 1956, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996, will enact major welfare reforms. The Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program will be replaced with a new Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant to the States. The TANF block grant will be capped through 2001. Time limits will be placed on individuals receiving TANF benefits. Overall, the growth in non-Medicaid welfare spending will be slowed to 4.3 percent annually. The bill originally included major Medicaid reforms, but most of those provisions were stricken when the bill was reported. Without those Medicaid reforms, welfare spending will still be reduced by \$61.4 billion over 6 years.

The Faircloth amendment would prohibit cash welfare benefits from going to a minor if that minor lived with a parent, guardian, or other adult relative who was also receiving cash welfare benefits and had been receiving them for 3 or more years.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

The bill before us will require parents who are minors to live with their parents or under other adult supervision before they will be allowed to receive welfare benefits for themselves and their children. The purpose of this provision is to keep children under appropriate, responsible adult guidance. Under current law, a teenage girl can leave home and receive a free apartment, free food stamps, and cash welfare benefits if she has a child, does not work, and stays single. No one, of course, intended for the law to work in this manner, nor does anyone approve of the fact that it does. This bill will fix that problem by requiring minors with children to live under adult supervision as a condition of receiving welfare for themselves and their children. However, when the home that a minor parent is in is headed by an adult who has been on welfare for more than 3 years, than the purpose of adult supervision is lost. We do not want to give welfare benefits to children who live under the guidance of adults who have chosen welfare as a way of life. Under the Faircloth amendment, these young girls would still be entitled to receive all other benefits--food stamps, medical care, et

(See other side)

YEAS (21)		NAYS (77)				NOT VOTING (2)	
Republicans (20 or 38%)	Democrats (1 or 2%)	Republicans (33 or 62%)		Democrats (44 or 98%)		Republicans (0)	Democrats (2)
Ashcroft	Byrd	Abraham	Gorton	Akaka	Inouye		Nunn ⁻²
Coverdell		Bennett	Gregg	Baucus	Johnston		Pryor ⁻²
Faircloth		Bond	Hatch	Biden	Kennedy		
Gramm		Brown	Hatfield	Bingaman	Kerrey		
Grams		Burns	Jeffords	Boxer	Kerry		
Grassley		Campbell	Kassebaum	Bradley	Kohl		
Helms		Chafee	Kempthorne	Breaux	Lautenberg		
Hutchison		Coats	Lugar	Bryan	Leahy		
Inhofe		Cochran	McCain	Bumpers	Levin		
Kyl		Cohen	Roth	Conrad	Lieberman		
Lott		Craig	Santorum	Daschle	Mikulski		
Mack		D'Amato	Simpson	Dodd	Moseley-Braun		
McConnell		DeWine	Snowe	Dorgan	Moynihan		
Murkowski		Domenici	Specter	Exon	Murray		
Nickles		Frahm	Stevens	Feingold	Pell		
Pressler		Frist	Thomas	Feinstein	Reid		
Shelby			Warner	Ford	Robb		
Smith				Glenn	Rockefeller		
Thompson				Graham	Sarbanes		
Thurmond				Harkin	Simon		
				Heflin	Wellstone		
				Hollings	Wyden		

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

cetera--all the amendment would prevent is two welfare checks from going to the same household. If our colleagues truly want to stop the cycle of intergenerational welfare dependency, then they will join us in voting in favor of this amendment.

Those opposing the amendment contended:

The Faircloth amendment would set up two categories of teenage moms: one category would get aid for living at home; the other category would not. This amendment is destructive of family unity, and should therefore be rejected.